



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C.5/PV/vr

Dear Mr Kenn Skau Fischer,
Chair of the NSAC,

Thank you for the letter of 23 May 2023 regarding the advice provided by the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC) on the functioning of the landing obligation (NSAC Advice Ref. 08-2223).

Your letter provides very useful background information regarding the horizontal process of the landing obligation and respective exemptions (*de minimis* and high survivability), proposed through joint recommendations submitted by the Member States regional groups. In addition, it also summarises the topics discussed and highlights the main conclusions reached at the “*NSAC Landing Obligation Workshop*” held in Brussels on 17-18 January 2023.

The dynamic and interesting workshop, also attended by the Commission, joined diverse relevant stakeholders to discuss the current situation and future challenges related with the practical implementation of the landing obligation. It covered many varied topics, such as alternative discarding systems in third countries, current experience and state of play, fisheries science, and potential technological solutions to improve monitoring and control. The resulting series of specific recommendations compiled in the present NSAC advice, whose delivery is very timely and helpful, then aims to seek improvements in the implementation and compliance with the landing obligation.

I acknowledge your reflections and recommendations on this subject, which further confirms the NSAC dynamism and interest to improve fisheries management in the North Sea. Finally, I also take this opportunity to reiterate my appreciation for the commitment and effort by all partners involved in this work.

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Should you have any questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, coordinator for the Advisory Councils, via the functional mailbox (MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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